

expansion in 31 states and the District of Columbia.

These benefits have been felt across the country, especially in home state of Texas.

In Texas alone:

1. 10,695,000 individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—will no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history.

2. 4,889,000 uninsured Texans have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the ACA Marketplace.

3. 5,198,000 individuals on private insurance who have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a mammogram, birth control, or an immunization.

In the first ten months of 2013, 233,100 seniors and people with disabilities saved on average \$866 on prescription medications.

In addition to the tangible healthcare benefits for millions of families, the Affordable Care Act has had powerful effects on the financial state of our nation.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, we have extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust fund by more than a decade, and helped save taxpayers \$116 billion through new Medicare efficiencies.

The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that hospitals saved more than \$5.7 billion in costs that would have normally gone unpaid by patients without insurance.

Contrary to the claims of the law's critics, private insurance companies have leapt at the opportunity to compete for business among the newly insured, and the healthcare industry has boomed.

Through all of these successes, however, House Republicans remain obsessed with destroying this law, and with unraveling the security it provides to millions of Americans.

Medicaid serves a notable share of children, nursing home residents, and Americans younger than 65 years, while a significant share of Medicare beneficiaries have incomes less than \$23,500, have 5 or more chronic

conditions, or report a health status that is fair or poor.

Medicare and Medicaid also continue to drive innovation and these programs have become the standards for coverage, quality, and innovation in American healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, together these programs serve the nation's most vulnerable people—low-income children and adults, people with disabilities, and older persons.

Both programs continue to play crucial roles in providing equitable and affordable healthcare, leading innovation in payment and delivery reform, carrying out outreach to the most vulnerable communities, and reshaping the delivery of care for the future.

It is for these reasons, Medicare and Medicaid remain central to the nation's public health insurance system and vital to the health of Americans and prosperity of our nation.

Because of these programs, more Americans have access to affordable, equitable health care today than at any point in our history.

And I am committed to making sure that number will continue to grow.

On this anniversary of these vital programs, we should remember that a healthy America is a prosperous America.

As we look ahead to the next half century, we can celebrate that what was put in place in 1965 has given us the foundation for a healthy and prosperous future for all Americans.

And I invite those detractors who confidently predicted that Medicare and Medicaid then, and the Affordable Care Act now, would lead to the ruination of the country to join me in saying:

Thank you LBJ. Thank you Obama.

REV. DELROY A. REID-SALMON,
PHD.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a leader in the community who for three decades has left a positive and lasting mark on the Bronx.

Reverend Delroy A. Reid-Salmon PhD., is the Pastor of Grace Baptist Chapel, located at 3355 Boller Avenue. This year marks Reverend Reid-Salmon's 30th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Christian Ministry, and he is being recognized for his outstanding commitment, leadership, and service to the community. Rev. Reid-Salmon has served as a positive role model for our young people, motivating and encouraging them to pursue their education while becoming active, responsible citizens. His efforts have been particularly fruitful, as the overwhelming majority of those he has mentored have obtained college degrees.

As the organizing Pastor of Grace Baptist, Reverend Reid-Salmon saw his congregation come together from modest beginnings. The Chapel started with minimal funds and only eight members on August 1, 1987. Today, they now serve over 200 members and parishioners. Reverend Reid-Salmon's exemplary service to the church and his community has never wavered; his commitment never in question.

Of course, Reverend Reid-Salmon's greatest passion is for his wife and partner in ministry, Elaine. As constituents in my district they have shown a deep affinity for helping those around them, through their work at Grace Baptist and beyond.

Grace Baptist Chapel has been fortunate to have such a caring and devoted leader for 30 years. Here's to 30 more just like it. Congratulations to Reverend Delroy A. Reid-Salmon on this joyous occasion. The honor and recognition is well-deserved.